FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: September 24, 2014

Bea Shepard donation to Alaska State Museum Heritage Endowment Fund

JUNEAU – Bea Shepard, a longtime Alaskan and supporter of the Alaska State Museum, has bequeathed a sizable cash donation to the museum's Heritage Endowment Fund. Ms. Shepard, 94, died November 1, 2013, in Juneau.

A museum donor and frequent visitor, Ms. Shepard served in leadership positions with the Friends of the Alaska State Museum as a docent.

In the 1980s, Ms. Shepard recognized the need to expand the collections and exhibit area of the state museum. Her tireless efforts working with museum staff, community leaders and legislators paved the way for acquisition of the site for the combined State Archives, Libraries & Museums building now under construction in Juneau, said Linda Thibodeau, Director of the Alaska Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums.

As a member of the board for Museums Alaska, a statewide organization, Ms. Shepard brought the message to the Legislature that museums and cultural centers throughout Alaska are important and in need of their ongoing support. Her gift to the Heritage Endowment Fund is in keeping with her desire to see the Alaska State Museum grow to meet the needs of Alaskans.

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